

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1-11 (Cancelled)

12 (Previously Presented) A guide device for locating a working axis, said device comprising:

a first element comprising a first cannulated shaft having a longitudinal axis, said first element further ~~and~~ comprising a first contact portion having a first and a second contact surface spaced radially outwardly from said first cannulated shaft, said contact portion mounted to said shaft; and

a second element comprising a second cannulated shaft moveably disposed along said first longitudinal axis in said cannula of said first cannulated shaft, said second element further comprising a second contact portion having a third and a fourth contact surface spaced radially outwardly from said second cannulated shaft, wherein said first and said second contact surfaces of said first contact portion are configured to contact with an articular surface about a first and a second opposite side of a defect site on an articular surface generally only along either one of the AP or ML curves of said articular surface, and wherein said third and said fourth contact surfaces of said second contract portion are configured to contact with said articular surface about a third and a fourth opposite side of said defect site generally only along the other of the AP or ML curves of said articular surface, said contact surface of said second element movable along said longitudinal axis with respect to the contact surface of the first element,

wherein the longitudinal axis is configured to be ~~being~~ oriented substantially normal to said a non-spherical articular surface when said both contact surfaces of said first and said second contact portions make contact with said articular surface, and wherein said cannula of said

second cannulated shaft is configured to receive a tool along said longitudinal axis of first element to be driven substantially normal into an articular surface of bone

~~wherein each said contact surface comprises a plurality of arcuate sections of a generally toroidal member, wherein said generally toroidal member is formed when said contact surfaces make contact with a locally spherical articular surface.~~

13 (Cancelled)

14 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein one said contact surface is biased in one direction with respect to the other said contact surface.

15 (Currently Amended) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said ~~contact surfaces are adapted such that the~~ contact surfaces of the first element are configured to make contact with a plurality of points along ~~either one of the AP or ML curves of said an~~ articular surface, while the contact surfaces of said second element are configured to make contact with a plurality of points along the ~~other of the AP or ML~~ curves of said articular surface.

16 (Currently Amended) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said ~~first or said second element comprises a cannula of said second element, wherein said guide device is~~ configured adapted to receive a tool for creating a pilot hole through said cannula ~~and permit said tool to be driven substantially normal to said into an~~ articular surface of bone.

17 (Currently Amended) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said ~~first or said second element comprises a cannula of said second element is configured, wherein said guide device is adapted~~ to receive a guide pin or wire through said cannula ~~and permit said guide pin or wire to be driven substantially normal to said into an~~ articular surface of bone.

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18 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first or said second element comprises at least one aperture or transparent portion formed therein, permitting the viewing of at least a portion of an articular surface therethrough.

19 (Currently Amended) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the outermost dimensions of said contact surfaces substantially surround said a defect in said an articular surface.

20 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the plurality of points contacting said contact surfaces corresponds to the plurality of points abutting an articular surface along the perimeter of an implant.

21 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the plurality of points contacting said contact surfaces corresponds to the plurality of points along the perimeter of a portion of an articular surface to be removed.

22-80 (Cancelled)

81 (Currently Amended) A method for replacing a portion of an articular surface of bone generally defined by an anterior-posterior (AP) and a medial-lateral (ML) first and a second curve using a device comprising a first element comprising a first contact surface mounted to a first cannulated shaft, and a second element comprising a second contact surface mounted to a second cannulated shaft, said second contact surface configured to move with respect to the first contact surface, said method comprising:

establishing an axis generally normal to the portion of the articular surface of bone to be replaced based on said ML first curve and said AP first curve of said articular surface, comprising:

contacting said first contact surface with said articular surface about a first and a second opposite side of a defect site on an articular surface generally only along either one of said AP or said ML curves of said articular surface; and

contacting said second contact surface with said articular surface about a third and a fourth opposite side of said defect site generally only along the other of said AP or said ML curves of said articular surface;

~~providing a device comprising a first element comprising an aiming feature and a first contact surface mounted to a shaft, and a second element comprising a second contact surface movable with respect to the first contact surface, said first and second contact surfaces being configured to contact a non-spherical articular surface when said device is placed on said articular surface;~~

excising only a portion of said articular surface adjacent to said axis, to create an implant site;

one of selecting an artificial implant corresponding to dimensions of said implant site from a set of variously-sized artificial implants, and fabricating an artificial implant corresponding to a dimension of said implant site; and

installing said implant into said implant site.

82 (Cancelled)

83 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein excising said articular surface comprises cutting at least a portion of said articular surface radially symmetrically about said axis.

84 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said implant comprises a bone-facing distal surface adapted to mate with said implant site, said surface comprising at least one mating feature; and a proximal surface having a contour based on an original surface contour of said excised portion of said articular surface.

85 (Cancelled)

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86 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein excising said articular surface comprises rotating a cutting tool about said axis.

87 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein installing said implant comprises driving a fixation element into said articular surface along said axis, said fixation element comprising a mating feature at a proximal end thereof.

88 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein said mating feature is configured to aid in the depthwise positioning of said fixation element with respect to said articular surface.

89 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said mating feature is configured to be coupled to the distal portion of an implant.

90 (Cancelled)

91 (New) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein each of said contact surfaces of said first and said second contact portions comprise an arcuate section of a generally toroidal member, wherein said generally toroidal member is formed when said contact surfaces make contact with said articular surface.